summer resorts in South India. Mahasivarathri Jatra was held during the year during which time thousands of pilgrims visited the Hills.

1050. Sri Krishnarajendra Hill Station, Kemmangundi is also becoming popular as a summer resort in the State.

(vi) Stores Purchase Committee

1051. The total value of orders placed (including the annual rate contracts) with firms in India during the year amounted to about Rs. 2,28,63,263 (Rs. 1,33,78,950). The total value of orders placed with firms in foreign countries amounted to Rs. 29,32,494 (Rs. 44,00,496). The total value of all purchases arranged by the Stores Purchase Committee both from firms in India and foreign countries during the year amounted to Rs. 2,57,95,758 (Rs. 1,77,79,447). The fluctuation in prices of almost all materials continued as in the previous years owing to Armament and Stock Piling Programme of various countries. The number of ex-stock offers were few. The tendency towards enhancement of prices and delays in delivery continued and the prices quoted by foreign firms were not firm and were always subject to change at the time of actual despatch depending upon the cost of material and labour at the time. Most of the requirements of Government departments were met by indigenous firms.

1052. Since the services of Messrs. Rendel Palmer and Tritton Ltd., London have been terminated, no expenses were incurred on behalf of the establishment of the Stores Purchase Committee.

1053. The total expenditure of the Stores Purchase Committee including the contribution of Rs. 4,000 paid to the Mysore Trade Agent's Office in London amounted to Rs. 50,690 (Rs. 61,439) and the incidence of cost works out to ·19 per cent as against ·25 per cent in the previous year. The sale proceeds of the Tender Forms during the year amounted to Rs. 29,862 (Rs. 22,533).

1054. Messrs. Best & Co., Ltd., Madras continued to be the clearing and forwarding agents. The total tonnage of consignments imported and exported by the agents during the year was 7,805½ as against 5,178½ during the previous year. The total expenditure incurred for the

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services rendered by these agents amounted to Rs. 17,02,848 (Rs. 15,75,829).

1055. The rules regarding the registration of firms in the Stores Purchase Committee approved list were revised. The firms are now being classified into three categories with different rates of fees to be charged in respect of each category of firms. The total number of firms registered both for one and five years during the period were 385 and 185 respectively.

1056. The Committee met three times during the year as against one in the previous year. Some of the important subjects that were considered at the meetings were (1) fixing up a time limit in the tender, up to which the rates tendered should hold good, (2) payment of bills for supplies received by the Government department within a particular period and (3) acceptance of Bank Guarantee from firms in lieu of payment of security deposit and earnest money, etc.

(vii) Public Service Commission.

1057. The number and percentage of appointments held by Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Advanced Class in the Gazetted and the Non-Gazetted services of the State as on 1st April 1953 were as follows :—

...	Gazetted Service		Non-Gazetted Service	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Backward Classes ...	967	58·5	32,296	64·0
Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.	28	1·7	2,918	5·8
Advanced Class ...	657	39·8	15,285	30·2
Total ...	1,652	100.00	50,499	100·0

1058. During the year, the Commission dealt with 15,589 references from Government, Heads of Departments and other Unit Officers and 34,412 applications from candidates for various kinds and classes of services. Apart from the above, 487 cases were referred to the Commission by Government un-officially for opinion. The number of letters issued from the Commission was 13,698.